

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 5, insert the following headings:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--;

Page 1, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--.

Page 2, between lines 33 and 34, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;

Page 3, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 represents three dose/response curves obtained for SSA expressing the fluorescence signal emitted (y-axis, i.e., vertical) as a function of the concentration of homologous compound in biological units (x-axis, i.e., horizontal). The three curves represented under A, B, and C correspond, respectively, to concentrations of SSA antigens of 300, 150 and 75 µg/ml of particles.

Figure 2 represents three dose/response curves obtained for SSB expressing the fluorescence signal emitted (y-axis) as a function of the concentration of homologous compound in biological units (x-axis). The three curves represented under A', B', and C' correspond, respectively, to concentrations of SSB antigens of 100, 50 and 25 µg/ml of particles.

Figure 3 represents a comparative study of results obtained by the multiparametric assay (y-axis) and by the individual ELISA assay (x-axis), expressed in biological units for the detection of the antinuclear antibodies (ANA) directed against the antigens of SSA, SM, Sci 70, Sm/NRP, Jo1, SSB and DNA.

Figure 4 represents a comparative study of results obtained by the multiparametric assay (y-axis) and by the individual ELISA assay (x-axis), expressed in biological units for the detection of the antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA) directed against the antigens of myeloperoxidase (MPO) and proteinase 3 (PR3).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.